

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SUVA 00637 010245Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /102 W
-----121569 010254Z /61/41

R 192135Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7285

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL SUVA 0637

CORRECTED COPY FOR TEXT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, FJ, UN, LE

SUBJECT: FIJI VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE KEEPING FORCE

REF: STATE 096755

1. APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER CONFIRMED THAT RATU MARA IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN OPPORTUNITY FOR FIJIAN TROOPS TO SERVE WITH UN PEACE FORCES IN LEBANON. ASKED ABOUT FIGURES HE SAID THAT A 1,000 MAN FORCE HAS BEEN SUGGESTED TO THE UN AS A MAXIMUM BUT A MINIMUM OF 200 MEN HAS BEEN DISCUSSED ALSO.

2. OFFER IS FOR "BODIES" ONLY WHICH MEANS THAT FIJI NOT ABLE PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR THE OSTENSIBLE REASON THAT FIJIAN EQUIPMENT NOT MODERN ENOUGH TO MATCH THAT WHICH OTHER CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES HAVE AVAILABLE.

3. ASKED ABOUT TRANSPORTATION COSTS SOURCE WAS COMPELLED TO ADMIT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SUVA 00637 010245Z

THAT GOF WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY FINANCING EVEN IF PROMISED EVENTUAL REIMBURSEMENT BY UN. IN CONCLUSION SOURCE RECOGNIZED THAT INDEED FIJI WAS OFFERING WAS ABLE AND TRAINED BODIES AVAILABLE IN FIJI.

4. FIJIAN FORCES ARE 775 MAN STRONG OF WHOM 141 SERVE IN THE NAVY AND REMAINING 634 ARE GROUND FORCES. THESE NUMBERS INCLUDE 21 AND 44 NON-COMMISSIONED AND COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

RESPECTIVELY. IN ADDITION THERE ARE ABOUT 600 MEN IN TERRITORIAL FORCES THE EQUIVALENT OF OUR NATIONAL GUARD. THESE FORCES ARE TRAINED REGULARLY AND ALTHOUGH NOT FULLTIME SOLDIERS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE COMPARABLE IN COMPETENCE.

5. SOURCE ABOVE CLAIMED THAT BULK OF FORCES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO UN WILL COME FROM BOTH REGULAR ARMY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES. THE RESULTIN VACANCIES IN THE ARMED FORCES WILL BE FILLED BY NEW RECRUITS.

6 INTERESTINGLY COMMADER-IN-CHIEF OF FIJIAN FORCES HAS NOT BEEN KEPT INFORMED OF FOREGOING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN INITIATED AND HANDLED BY PM'S OFFICE. HE CONFIRMED HOWEVER, THAT FOR A LONG TIME THE PM HAS BEEN KEENLY INTERSTED IN MAKING FIJIAN FORCES AVAILABLE TO THE UN. IN FACT THE PM HAD ASKED HIM TO LOOK INTO THIS ENTIRE MATTER WHEN HE VISITED THE UN ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO BUT CAME BACK WITH A DISCOURAGING REPORT. HE FOUND OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT FIJIAN SOLDIERS MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE WITH FULL EQUIPMENT AND THAT WHILE POSSIBILITY REIMBURSEMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS EXISTS THE ACTUAL REIMBURSEMENT MAY HAVE TO WAIT SEVERAL YEARS.

8. COMMENT: WHILE GOF IS PRESENTING ITS TROOP OFFER AS A MEANS OF IDENTIFYING WITH THE UN LEBANON FOR THE OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF EARNING KUDOS AND REDEEMABLE POLITICAL CHIPS WITH US AND THE UN IN GENERAL THE REAL REASON FOR THIS INITIATIVE IS SIMPLE ECONOMIC. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SUVA 00637 010245Z

THE PROPOSED FORCE ESPECIALLY IF IT IS 1,000-MAN STRONG IS CORRECTLY LOOKED UPON AS A SUBSTANTIAL SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND PURCHASING POWER AND SAVINS BY FAMILIES AT HOME. FURTHER SUCH ARRANGEMENT WOULD PROVIDE RELIEF FROM UNEMPLOYMENT PRESSURES THROUGH THE RECRUITMENT OF YOUNG MEN TO FILL THE VACANCIES TO BE CREATED BY THE SOLDIERS SENT ABROAD. THIS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE OF SENDING TROOPS ABROAD WAS DISCOVERED AND MUCH APPRECIATED DURING THE MALAYSIAN EMERGENCY WHEN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF FIJIAN TROOPS FOUGHT IN THE MALAYSIAN JUNGLES.

9. WITH REGARD TO REFTEL'S INQUIRY ABOUT THE FIJIAN FORCES POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS ALL WE CAN REPORT IS LOCAL REPUTATION THAT BOTH REGULAR ARMY AND TERRITORIAL FORRCES ARE SYSTEMATICALLY TRAINED AND SEEK TO MAINTAIN RESPECTABLE LEVELS OF COMPETENCE. THE QUESTION HOWEVER IS THAT IF GOF WERE TO OFFER 1,000 MEN A FAIR NUMBER OF THEM MAY NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT TRAINING SINCE UNLIKELY THAT ALL OF THE 1,000 MEN COULD COME FROM THE REGULAR ARMY OR THE TERRITORIAL FORCES. WE DOUBT IT HOWEVER THAT ANY TO BE OFFERED WOULD BE COMPLETELY GREEN BECAUSE FIJIAN PRIDE WOULD INSURE PROPER SELECTION.

CONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOLUNTEERS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SUVA00637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-1187, D780169-0833
Format: TEL
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780438/aaaabfxi.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 733f01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 96755
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2910830
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIJI VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE KEEPING FORCE
TAGS: MILI, MARR, MOPS, FJ, LE, UN, UNIFIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/733f01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014